CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method for providing code to computer systems, comprising:

    receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code from a developer;

    translating the received base code into an intermediate code;

    evaluating the intermediate code to determine whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

    notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

    receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

    selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

    transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

    sending the target code to the requester.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the base code is source code and the target code is executable code.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the evaluating includes determining whether the developer is authorized to submit base code.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the developer-specified characteristics identify a functional category for the code.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the functional categories include networking, communications, client-server, user interface, Internet browsing, electronic mail,

3 audio, video, telephony, television, compression, encryption, logging, feature manager,
4 hardware interface, or miscellaneous.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes optimizing the
2 intermediate code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes compiling the
2 intermediate code to produce executable target code in accordance with the requester-
3 specified characteristics.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 including billing for providing the target code to
2 the requester.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes compensating the
2 developer for the sending of target code that is based on base code provided by the
3 developer.

1   10.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing is based on per use receiving
2 of target code by the requester.

1   11.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes differential billing
2 based on the requester-specified characteristics.

1   12.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming of the intermediate
2 code uses beads of a *Strings*-based operating environment.

1   13.   A computer-implemented method for processing developer-provided
2 code to be distributed to requesters when requested, comprising:
3   receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code
4 from a developer;
5   evaluating the base code to determine whether it satisfies the developer-
6 specified characteristics;

7   notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-

8   specified characteristics; and

9   when target code that derives from the received base code is distributed to a

10 requester, compensating the developer.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 including:

2   receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including

3   requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

4   selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

5   transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with

6   the requester-specified characteristics; and

7   sending the target code to the requester.

1   15.   A computer-based method for providing code for computer systems,

2   comprising:

3   providing a collection of intermediate code;

4   receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including

5   requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

6   selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

7   transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with

8   the requester-specified characteristics; and

9   sending the target code to the requester.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting uses a least-squares

2   analysis based various characteristics of the intermediate code.

1   17.   The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting is based on processor

2   speed requirements, processor type, or memory requirements.